

1 RENE L. VALLADARES
Federal Public Defender
2 Nevada State Bar No. 11479
JACQUELYN N. WITT
3 Assistant Federal Public Defender
411 E. Bonneville, Ste. 250
4 Las Vegas, Nevada 89101
(702) 388-6577/Phone
5 (702) 388-6261/Fax
Jackie_Witt@fd.org

6 Attorney for Walter Pinto-Mejia
7

8 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
9 **DISTRICT OF NEVADA**

10 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
11 Plaintiff,
12
13 v.
14 WALTER PINTO-MEJIA,
15 Defendant.

Case No. 2:23-mj-00211-BNW

**STIPULATION TO CONTINUE
PRELIMINARY HEARING**
(First Request)

16 IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND AGREED, by and between Jason M. Frierson,
17 United States Attorney, and Edward G. Veronda, Assistant United States Attorney, counsel for
18 the United States of America, and Rene L. Valladares, Federal Public Defender, and Jacquelyn
19 N. Witt, Assistant Federal Public Defender, counsel for Walter Pinto-Mejia, that the
20 Preliminary Hearing currently scheduled on March 31, 2023, be vacated and continued to a date
21 and time convenient to the Court, but no sooner than sixty (60) days.

22 This request requires that the Court extend two deadlines: (1) that a preliminary hearing
23 be conducted within 14 days of a detained defendant's initial appearance, see Fed. R. Crim. P.
24 5.1(c); and (2) that an information or indictment be filed within 30 days of a defendant's arrest,
25 see 18 U.S.C. § 3161(b).
26

1 1. The United States Attorney’s Office has developed an early disposition program
2 for immigration cases, authorized by the Attorney General pursuant to the PROTECT ACT of
3 2003, Pub. L. 108-21.

4 2. The early disposition program for immigration cases is designed to: (1) reduce
5 the number of hearings required in order to dispose of a criminal case; (2) avoid having more
6 cases added to the court’s trial calendar, while still discharging the government’s duty to
7 prosecute federal crimes; (3) reduce the amount of time between complaint and sentencing; and
8 (4) avoid adding significant time to the grand jury calendar to seek indictments in immigration
9 cases, which in turn reduces court costs.

10 3. The government has made a plea offer in this case that requires defendant to
11 waive specific rights and hearings in exchange for “fast-track” downward departure under
12 USSG § 5K3.1. This offer will be withdrawn if it is not timely accepted before this matter is
13 indicted and before a preliminary hearing is held.

14 4. Under Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 5.1(c), the Court “must hold the
15 preliminary hearing within a reasonable time, but no later than 14 days after the initial
16 appearance if the defendant is in custody”

17 5. However, under Rule 5.1(d), “[w]ith the defendant’s consent and upon a
18 showing of good cause—taking into account the public interest in the prompt disposition of
19 criminal cases—a magistrate judge may extend the time limits in Rule 5.1(c) one or more times
20”

21 6. Furthermore, under the Speedy Trial Act, 18 U.S.C. § 3161(b), “[a]ny
22 information or indictment charging an individual with the commission of an offense shall be
23 filed within thirty days from the date on which such individual was arrested or served with a
24 summons in connection with such charges.”

25 7. Defense counsel requires additional time to discuss the fast-track offer with Mr.
26 Pinto-Mejia and review discovery.

1
2 8. Accordingly, the parties jointly request that the Court schedule the preliminary
3 hearing in this case no sooner than 60 days from today's date.

4 9. Defendant is in custody and agrees to the extension of the 14-day deadline
5 imposed by Rule 5.1(c) and waives any right to remedies under Rule 5.1(c) or 18 U.S.C. §
6 3161(b), provided that the information or indictment is filed on or before the date ordered
7 pursuant to this stipulation.

8 10. The parties agree to the extension of that deadline.

9 11. This extension supports the public interest in the prompt disposition of criminal
10 cases by permitting defendant to consider entering into a plea agreement under the United States
11 Attorney's Office's fast-track program for § 1326 defendants.

12 12. Accordingly, the additional time requested by this stipulation is allowed under
13 Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 5.1(d).

14 13. In addition, the parties stipulate and agree that the time between today and the
15 scheduled preliminary hearing is excludable in computing the time within which the defendant
16 must be indicted and the trial herein must commence pursuant to the Speedy Trial Act, 18
17 U.S.C. § 3161(b) and (h)(7)(A), considering the factors under 18 U.S.C. § 3161(h)(7)(B)(i) and
18 (iv).

19 14. This is the first request for an extension of the deadlines by which to conduct the
20 preliminary hearing and to file an indictment.

21 DATED this 28th day of March, 2023.

22 RENE L. VALLADARES
23 Federal Public Defender

JASON M. FRIERSON
United States Attorney

24 By /s/ Jacquelyn N. Witt
25 JACQUELYN N. WITT
26 Assistant Federal Public Defender

By /s/ Edward G. Veronda
EDWARD G. VERONDA
Assistant United States Attorney

1 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
2 DISTRICT OF NEVADA

3 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

4 Plaintiff,

5 v.

6 WALTER PINTO-MEJIA,

7 Defendant.
8

Case No. 2:23-mj-00211-BNW

**ORDER ON
STIPULATION TO EXTEND
DEADLINES TO CONDUCT
PRELIMINARY HEARING AND
FILE INDICTMENT**

9
10 Based on the stipulation of counsel, good cause appearing, and the best interest of justice
11 being served; the time requested by this stipulation being excludable in computing the time
12 within which the defendant must be indicted and the trial herein must commence pursuant to
13 the Speedy Trial Act, 18 U.S.C. § 3161(b) and (h)(7)(A), and Federal Rule of Criminal
14 Procedure 5.1, considering the factors under 18 U.S.C. § 3161(h)(7)(B)(i) and (iv):

15 IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that the preliminary hearing currently scheduled on
16 March 31, 2023 at the hour of 4:00 pm be vacated and continued to June 6, 2023 at 1:00 p.m.

17
18 DATED: March 29, 2023.

19
20 

21 UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE
22
23
24
25
26